

A circular black ink stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIPET &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the top and "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. In the center, the date "MAR 21 2005" is stamped.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: B. Sines

MAIL STOP AFTER FINAL

For: POISON RESISTANT COMBUSTIBLE GAS SENSORS  
AND METHOD FOR WARNING OF POISONING

## RESPONSE

Sir:

Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Jones et al in view of Friese et al.

Jones et al patent has been cited to show a combustible gas detection element having an inner layer similar to the inner layer of the claimed invention, with an oxidation catalyst material supported on alumina. Jones et al also provides a non-catalytic outer layer comprising a porous material which prevents non-volatile residues from reaching catalytically active regions of the detector. The Office Action recognizes that this outer layer is not the same as the outer layer of the claimed invention, and has cited the Friese et al reference for a showing of a gas sensor including an outer layer comprising a catalytic compound which is not substantially active towards combustible gases, but which